

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action, Examiner Hines rejected claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,137,225 to *Heuvelmans* et al. in view of GP 733,853 to *Kreffft*; rejected claims 6 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,137,225 to *Heuvelmans* et al. in view of GB 733,853 to *Kreffft* and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,742,125 to *Ruigrok*; and objected to claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 9 and 11 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. In response thereto, the Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to recite the limitations of cancelled dependent claim 2, rewritten dependent claim 4 based on the limitations of independent claim 1 and cancelled dependent claim 4, amended independent claim 7 to recite the limitations of cancelled dependent claim 8, and rewritten dependent claim 11 based on the limitations of independent claim 7 and cancelled dependent claim 10.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Heuvelmans* et al. in view of *Kreffft*; withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 6 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Heuvelmans* et al. in view of *Kreffft* and in further view of *Ruigrok*; and the objection of claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 9 and 11 are therefore respectfully requested.

SUMMARY

The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, and 11-14 fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103 and 112. In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, Examiner Hines is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,
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